

NTUMUN 2021

# ROP & SITUATION BRIEF



**HISTORIC CRISIS  
COUNCIL**



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# HISTORIC CRISIS COUNCIL

## AN INTRODUCTION TO CRISIS

A crisis committee is a specialized council in which delegates are designated to come up with solutions to the complications to the scenario presented to them. Each of these committees begins with a crisis during the first session, after which they are followed by crisis updates that expand on the evolving scenario on an accelerated timeline. The delegates are challenged and tested on their abilities to think on their feet, and their ability to respond to the given situation under pressure.



## CRISIS DOCUMENTS

### PRESS RELEASES

A press release releases information of choice to the simulated public. They can be conducted by individuals with relevant portfolios, or by the entire committee.

### COMMUNIQUE

Official communications on behalf of the crisis cabinet are conducted through communiques. Unlike press releases, communiques are directed to specific parties, such as heads of states, prominent individuals, and more.

### DIRECTIVES

1. A directive is an order that is given to undertake a particular action, it could be something as simple as distributing food among the refugees or something as complex as conducting a coup.

2. The directives are the main driving force behind the simulation and the submitted paperwork will set the direction of the committee.
3. While preparing a directive, delegates should try to keep it as succinct and detailed as possible, keeping in mind the six tenets – Who, What, Why, Where, When, and How.
4. There are a few main types of directives submitted during a crisis
  - a. Individual Directive – involves a single portfolio
  - b. Joint Directive – usually involves two to four portfolios combining their portfolio powers to better carry out an action.
  - c. Covert and Overt Directives – The degree of public knowledge regarding the actions undertaken in a directive can be indicated, and might influence the outcomes and information made known to other delegates subsequently.
  - d. Committee directive – involving the full committee and similar to a draft resolution, it charts out a plan of action that the committee will undertake.
  - e. Portfolio request, in which the delegates can request information that their portfolio would have access to in the real scenario context, such as the Commander of Potomac asking the number of active personnel in his army. However, these directives are generally discouraged as delegates should keep track of what resources they have available to them.

## VOTING PROCEDURES ON COMMITTEE DIRECTIVES

1. Similar to the passing of draft resolutions, a committee directive first needs to be submitted to the Dais before a motion may be raised to introduce it.
2. Once the motion to introduce a committee directive is passed, its authors are given 1 minute of speaking time to introduce it to the committee.
  - a. A maximum of 2 speakers in favour and against will be given 1 minute each to present their stance on the directive.
  - b. A Question and Answer Session may be called but is not compulsory for the document to be passed.
3. After discussion on a committee directive, the committee may raise a motion to move into direct voting procedures on the directive. For the directive to be passed, a substantial majority is required.
4. Amendments to committee directives are not in order. Delegates may revise a failed directive and submit it at a later time.

## SPEECHES

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1. Delegates in the committee will not be representing a country, but playing the role of the characters involved. Speeches in third person are not in order, and should be made in first person.
2. The default speaking time for the General Speaker's List is 1 minute unless a motion to change it is raised and passed, subject to the discretion of the Dais. The time limit can also be amended by a vote.

## INTERCABINET COMMUNICATION

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1. Communication between delegates of different cabinets is to be conducted as a personal directive sent to the backroom.
2. Meetings between two or more delegates of different cabinets can be conducted if all involved parties are amenable to it and must be supervised by a member of the crisis team.

# HISTORIC CRISIS COUNCIL

## INTRODUCTION

The American Civil War is the bloodiest conflict that embroiled the United States, having racked casualties of up to 851,000 <sup>[1]</sup>. However, apart from its legacy of bloodshed, the Civil War is emblematic of the country's conflicting ideologies of the time and indicative of its deeper socioeconomic undercurrents.

Fundamentally, the Civil War saw the Northern Free States fighting for unionism and abolitionism while the Southern Confederacy clung onto secessionism and slavery <sup>[2]</sup>. Besides the conflict between conflicting national identity narratives and values, the Civil War was also a

product of partisanship and the differing modes by which the North and South prospered economically <sup>[3]</sup>.

The Civil War is still a ripe topic of discussion today as it is an avenue to explore injustice in American history and contemporary America. Deeper still, as unpleasant the Civil War is, studying American history means studying it in its entirety. Most importantly, in the wake of modern political divisiveness and antagonism, it is important to not villainize any one side of the Civil War but rather fully appreciate and understand the various motivations that drove the factions to bloody conflict.

## ABOLITIONISM V. SLAVERY

Abolitionism referred to the movement that sought to end slavery and free all present slaves from bondage. <sup>[4]</sup> The movement first started in Britain when English Quakers in the late 18th century started questioning the morality of enslaving other men. <sup>[5]</sup> After the American Revolution of 1780, the Northern states caught onto the idea and either declared that all human beings are equal in their respective

state constitutions or outlawed slavery outright. <sup>[6]</sup>

However, the Southern states persisted with slavery as many of them relied on the cotton trade as economic bloodline; <sup>[7]</sup> a trade that ran on the blood of slaves. As a result, the Northern states were compelled to convince their Southern brethren to give slavery up using strategies similar to those employed by the



English Quakers to dismantle slavery in Britain. From distributing anti-slavery literature amongst Southerners to abolitionists filling prominent government roles to sway the realpolitik of the day towards dismantling slavery,<sup>[8]</sup> the Northerners were resolute in their mission but failed to convince their Southern brethren to do so. In fact, this fuelled an acrimonious divide between the North and the South which led to the Missouri Compromise of 1820, which saw Missouri declare herself as a slave state and the prohibition of slavery in regions up north of the 36°30' parallel.<sup>[9]</sup>

Yet, this temporary truce would only last a while as in 1850, a piece of pro-slavery legislation, the Fugitive Slave Act,<sup>[10]</sup> was passed which required escaped slaves to be returned to their owners upon their capture. Furthermore, the Dred Scott v. Sandford resulted in a Supreme

Court ruling which interpreted the Constitution to not include American citizenship to people of African descent regardless of whether they were free or enslaved<sup>11</sup>. Meanwhile, the Northern abolitionists would continue to instigate slave revolts in the Southern states,<sup>[11]</sup> constructed the Underground Railway to transport Northern slaves to Southern states where they could be free,<sup>[12]</sup> and frequently made for the case that the Constitution was an anti-slavery document that guaranteed rights to every individual regardless of ethnicity.<sup>[13]</sup>

These antagonistic actions between the North and South reflected their deep ideological divide over slavery, which was a factor in the Civil War's eruption. Yet, this contention would have its roots elsewhere, specifically the disparate ways in which the North and South prospered economically.

## ECONOMIC DIVIDE

The Civil War was preceded by the First Industrial Revolution, which spanned from 1760 to the 1830s.<sup>[14]</sup> This wave of mechanization and manufacturing was driven by British innovation and commerce, many of which left an indelible imprint upon the Northern states' economies.<sup>[15]</sup>

It is worthwhile to note that before the Civil War, states on either side were not at an economic disadvantage; no distinct group of states with a clear alignment to the Union or Confederacy possessed a disparate amount of riches,

resources or manpower.<sup>[16]</sup> However, what differentiated the North from the South was their willingness to embrace industrialization; the geography of Northern states made it difficult to establish sprawling plantations which the South had an abundance of.<sup>[17]</sup> As a result, the North transitioned into a manufacturing economy while the South remained primarily agrarian.<sup>[18]</sup> This manifested into several differences.<sup>[19]</sup>

- The North relied on waged labourers while the South continued to rely on slaves

- The North diversified their economy and had a higher manufacturing output than the South
- The South continued to supply staples, such as tobacco, corn and especially cotton, to the global economy
- The North built more factories and railway tracks than the South
- The North rapidly urbanized and many Northerners settled into city centres while the South remained rural

As memorably quipped by the Senator from South Carolina, James Hammond, "Cotton is King!" <sup>[20]</sup>, the Confederates rode on the high of a high price for cotton in the 1850s, believing that their massive output of a good so beloved by the world would bring foreign nations to their cause. <sup>[21]</sup> Alas, this same conviction impeded their productivity following the industrialisation of the North and its consequences were shown during the Civil War.

## UNIONISM V. SECESSIONISM

Eventually, many states threatened to secede from the Union running up to 1860 if Abraham Lincoln were to be elected President. <sup>[22]</sup> This was because Lincoln held an antislavery stance, and at that point in time, the slave states believed that they were politically besieged.

Firstly, the United States had expanded aggressively from 1803 and 1854, through purchases, conquests and compromises<sup>[23]</sup>. Initially, the free and slave states held that an equilibrium were to be reached each time a new state was admitted into the Union, so that neither political bloc had a voting advantage in the nation's legislative houses. However, the three states admitted from 1858 to 1861 were all free, <sup>[24]</sup> following a compromise on making California a free state as well in exchange for tougher fugitive slave provisions. <sup>[25]</sup> As a result, the majority of both Houses would be occupied by free

states, <sup>[26]</sup> and this led to Lincoln's eventual election to the White House.

Secondly, the Southerners had radically reinterpreted the Constitution as having bestowed upon individual states the right to leave the Union. <sup>[27]</sup> Many contemporary legislators argued that the intent of the Founding Fathers was to manifest an eternal union, and that the right to secede was anything but a pleasantry. <sup>[28]</sup> Regardless, the South would find great distaste for the anti-slavery stance which the federal government was poised to take following the free states' majority in Congress.

Lastly, a deep sectionalism had been brewing amongst the North and South, which led to many cultural, social, economic and political differences between the people on either side. <sup>[29]</sup> The industrialization of the North led to urbanization and



highly productive farmsteads while the South remained dependent on a slave economy and subsistence agriculture. Religious rhetoric was used by Northern Puritans to denounce slavery as morally wrong, which further segmented the nation's largest religious institutions into its

respective Northern and Southern denominations.<sup>[30]</sup>

The North would eventually come to distrust the South and vice versa, which provided the seedbed for irreconcilable aggression.

## SITUATIONAL BRIEF

The day is 24th December 1861. It has been 8 months since the momentous fall of Fort Sumter and the start of the Civil War.

Despite a head start in rallying troops and a heavily industrialized economy, Lincoln faced multiple setbacks. The Union Army had just lost the Battle of Bull Run, the Battle of Wilson's Creek and the Battle of Ball's Bluff. This impacted the morale of the Union greatly as soldiers were sent on a rout in various instances, and the already fortified City of Washington would be further bulwarked by more earthworks and forts in a desperate bid for defence. A decisive Confederate victory in the Battle of Wilson's Creek affirmed a strong Southern presence along the Mississippi, the economic lifeline of the Confederacy, while another victory in the Battle of Bull Run would lionize Confederate Thomas Jonathan Jackson as "Stonewall" Jackson, a hero to all Southern compatriots.

Meanwhile, Lincoln's general-in-chief, General George McClellan, would remain bullish about his troop deployments, withholding advances onto Richmond. This is much to Lincoln's dismay and the North is seen adopting defensive positions along Virginia and the border states of Missouri and Kentucky.

The public morale towards the cause of either side has been characterized

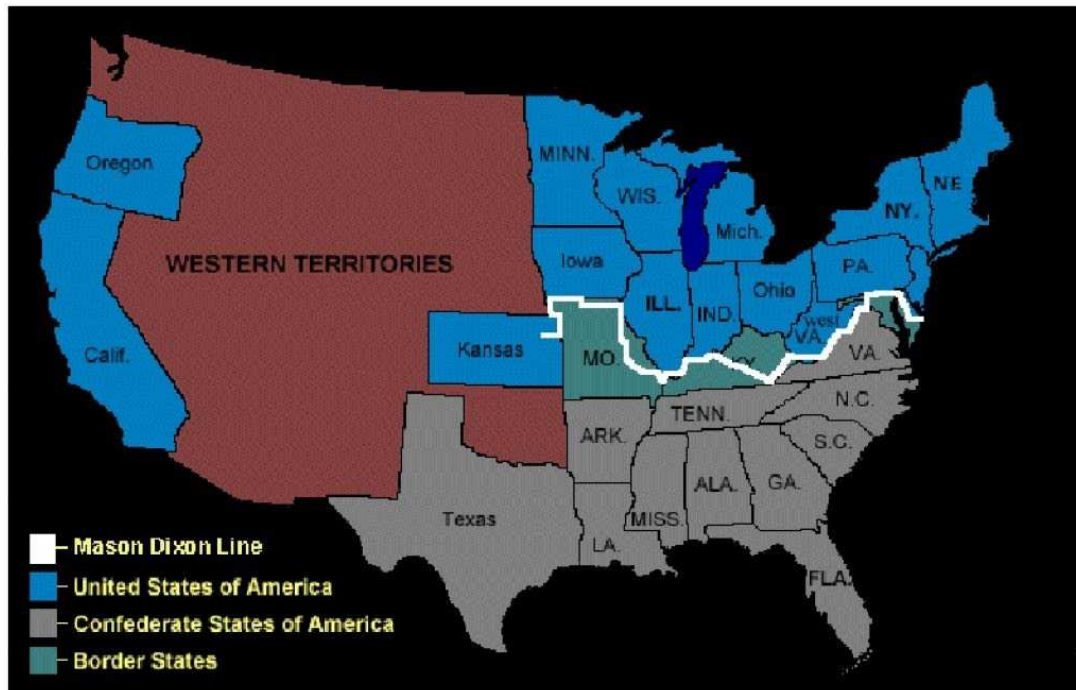
by both support as well as scepticism. Most southern slave owners preserved their loyalty to the confederacy for their fear of losing their slaves to abolitionists. The initial advances and early victories of the confederates have further boosted public outlook towards warfare. Meanwhile, free black men and abolitionists have also voiced their support towards the union although they push for a legal proclamation against slavery from the government. Many unionists have, however, questioned the government motives towards continuing warfare, and if it is morally reasonable to sacrifice the lives of thousands for a cause they might not completely agree with.

Though the president has asserted that the war is to be fought to preserve the union there is also a mounting pressure on the administrators from abolitionists to work on a larger goal of emancipation. The administration is still tasked to tackle fundamental questions regarding the founding values of America, and if it is to be a country characterized by liberty, freedom, and equality. If the country is truly free, to what extent the laws extend these freedoms, and how the administration can interpret the constitution.

Economically, the two sides are asymmetric with the north having a large advanced economy fuelled by industrialisation and the growth of

railroads. Furthermore, the north's higher population gave them a significant manpower advantage against the confederates. The southern economy dependent on

their extensive plantations, and slavery. This gave them a technological disadvantage making them depend on strategies to win key battles.



## TECHNOLOGY

The Civil War was a chaotic yet innovative time in American history. It dramatically changed the United States not only socially and politically, but also militarily. While American economy rivalled various European economies in the mid 19th century, America was still dependent on Europe for most of its military technology.

### STEAM ENGINES

The innovation of steam engines drastically increased the pace at which goods and people could be transported across land and water, allowing both sides to reinforce frontlines and sieges with equipment and manpower at a relatively faster

rate than before, covering larger distances.

In terms of the use of steam engines on the rail, the Union has the significant advantage of having a larger standardised rail network

with locomotive and rail factories in the North supporting them. The Confederacy however has neither luxury with an additional constraint of internal competition among rail operators that cause different widths of rail, requiring a single supply line to switch trains multiple times inefficiently.

Across water bodies, the steam engine has opened a new front in economic warfare with tactics such as a naval blockade being possible with the increased mobility of vessels.<sup>[1]</sup>

## TELEGRAPH

During the Civil War the telegraph proved its value as a tactical, operational, and strategic communication medium and an important contributor to Union victory. By contrast the Confederacy failed to make effective use of the South's much smaller telegraph network. The Union was able to

effectively control the telegram utilising the War Department, while the Confederacy's largest telegraph company, the Southern Telegraph Company, balked at cooperating with military and civilian officials.<sup>[2]</sup>

## WEAPONS

The weapons the soldiers fight with are as important to victory as the soldiers themselves for victory, key innovations and “cheapskate” ideas can at times be what change the outlook of a particular front.

Some of the major breakthroughs in warfare are important to fully understand the scenario in which the civil war was fought:

### INFANTRY WEAPONS

Advancements in the field of infantry weapons rendered Napoleonic formations and low fire rates outdated and the use of terrain as cover and higher fire rate weapons became predominant. The Minie ball was an invention that allowed rifles to

inflict greater harm while being easy to load.

At the start of the war infantrymen were accustomed to using smoothbore muskets, but the smoothbore muskets were far inferior to the rifled muskets as they

were less accurate and more clumsy to use. The repeater rifles changed this, allowing the reloading process to be done in around 2 seconds compared to the earlier rate of a maximum of 3 volleys a minute. However the repeater rifles require

newer tactics to be employed to use them at their maximum potential and a large enough stockpile to create a noticeable change when they are used. Repeating rifles are only useful for one particular type of soldier – infantry.

## VARIOUS TYPES OF RIFLES

The main 5 types of rifles used currently are:

rifles, short rifles, repeating rifles, rifle muskets, and cavalry carbines.

Short rifles and cavalry carbines are very close to the same gun and were used by close-quarters fighters where a long barrel was inefficient. Cavalry carbines were simply short rifles designed to be used on horseback. Even with advancements in firing mechanisms, the average soldier was still confined to shooting two to three rounds per minute in often strict formation. With

the invention of the repeating rifle, the traditional firing routine was no longer effective. Rifles like the Spencer rifle (a repeating rifle) could contain a large number of self-contained rounds, increasing the firing rate of the rifle and protecting the rounds from the elements.

To effectively employ the newer models of weapons, military tactics and formations will need to be changed which require experimentation and training that might divert important resources.<sup>[3]</sup>

## ARTILLERY

Artillery at this point fell into one of two main categories: field guns or howitzers. Field guns fired ordinance further downrange and were more accurate. These cannons worked best with a direct line of fire. Howitzers, in contrast, did not require a direct line of sight due to the higher trajectory. These types of artillery are better suited for firing over walls and can fire explosive shells, making them ideal for sieges and destroying fortifications. The use of anti-personnel artillery became viable first with the use of rifled cannons. This change was not

without its own logistical constraints but nevertheless doubled the range of cannons while retaining the same mobility and increasing accuracy. Organizing the artillery branch for war was a massive undertaking. In both the Union and Confederate armies, the field artillery consisted largely of volunteers in units organized by the states. They arrived for duty with an incomplete mixture of essential equipment.

The most effective practitioners of this ancient and venerable form of combat needed to develop a sound understanding of

both the art and the science of artillery operations. The former involved knowledge gained through experience. The latter involved textbook knowledge about the

science of ballistics. A facility similar to West Point is required for this purpose in the event that the war drags on.

## BALLOONS AND RECONNAISSANCE

Advancements in the field of aiding the front are just as important as the weapons used to fight it itself, the use of hydrogen filled balloons to gain crucial intel on enemy formations and strength allowed the generals to take educated decisions on the front.

Spies additionally used balloons and telegram lines together to aid the artillery in striking on the correct location and passing on information to superiors. With the lack of a formal military espionage framework, reconnaissance is that much more important.

## NAVAL VESSELS

Ironclads, or iron armoured ships replaced the wooden ships with sails as they were relatively unsinkable and allowed complete domination of water bodies. Ironclads ranged from ships completely made of metal to crude yet cheap ships made of heavy timber plated with metal. The only way to counter an ironclad, was with another ironclad, increasing their importance to either side. The ironclads and the newly developed submarines, albeit slow, could be used for a range of operations such as

blockade regions, open sea patrols, river strike forces, and to torpedo enemy vessels. While the Union is domestically producing them, the Confederacy has found itself at a disadvantage, but if it is able to acquire enough vessels, the Union plans for a blockade will “sink”. Hence the Union must consider the practicality and logistics required for the complete fruition of the “Anaconda” plan and continued operations in the Gulf of Mexico<sup>[4]</sup>



## TIMELINE

### 1 JANUARY, 1808: ABOLITION OF SLAVE IMPORTATION

- The United States bans the import and export of slaves, one year after Great Britain abolished the slave trade. Northern states begin a gradual process of ending slavery, but the institution strengthens in the South as cotton production expands. The internal trade grows as Northern owners sell their slaves, creating what historians have labelled a 'Second Middle Passage' within America.

### 3 MARCH, 1820: THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE

- Since the beginning of the 19th Century, the political balance between the North and South had been maintained by admitting alternatively slave and free states. The more populous North had come to dominate the House of Representatives and the South now sought to redress the balance. Missouri is admitted to the Union as a slave state but in the future, states north of Missouri and the 36°30' latitude line would be admitted only if they were free (except for California, which was admitted into the Union in 1850 as a free state despite the parallel divide).

### 1829: TARIFF OF 1828

- The Congress passed the Tariff of 1828 or the 'Tariff of Abominations' by the Southern Cotton Planters who vehemently opposed the Act.

### 1830: NORTH CAROLINA V. MANN

- In North Carolina v. Mann, the Supreme Court of North Carolina rules that slave owners have absolute authority over their slaves and cannot be found guilty of committing violence against them.

### 1831: THE LIBERATOR

- Abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the 'The Liberator', a greatly influential publication. About this time, abolitionism takes a radical and religious turn. Many abolitionists begin to demand the immediate emancipation of slaves. Southern Defenders of slavery start describing it as a "positive good" and not just a "necessary evil".

### 18 SEPTEMBER, 1850: FUGITIVE SLAVE ACT

- Congress is denied interference in the slave trade between states, enabling Southern slave-owners to take free blacks from the North. The act galvanised abolitionists as it implicated free states in maintaining the slave system by including clauses that meant anyone aiding runaway slaves would be subject to fines and imprisonment. Many abolitionist tracts and slave narratives make reference to the act to highlight Northern complicity

towards the institution of slavery. One famous example from 1852 was Mary Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which gained tremendous readership and publicity for the abolitionist cause.

#### 1854 - 1856: CONFLICT OVER KANSAS

- The 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act overturned the Missouri Compromise by ceding rights to individual states to decide whether to be free or slave-holding through the process of Popular Sovereignty. Slave-holders flock into Kansas to secure their allegiance, sparking clashes with free-state Northerners on a scale that threatens civil war.

#### AUGUST - OCTOBER, 1858: LINCOLN - DOUGLAS DEBATES

- In Illinois, Democrat Stephen A. Douglas and Republican Abraham Lincoln engage in seven debates during the Senate election campaign. Their speeches were circulated beyond the state and serve as a nuanced discussion of the problem of slavery and its future. Although he lost the election, much of what Lincoln said in the debates went on to form his presidential campaign in 1860.

#### 16-18 OCTOBER, 1859: RAID ON HARPERS FERRY

- John Brown attempts to lead an armed slave insurrection by seizing a federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia. He believed slavery could only be ended by violent means. The raid sparked a national outcry both for and against Brown's actions. Contemporary Southern accounts blamed the recently-formed Republican Party and their anti-slavery platform for inspiring violence. U.S. Marines, under the command of future Confederate General Robert E. Lee, suppress the insurrectionists. Brown was caught and sentenced to death; his hanging witnessed by Abraham Lincoln's assassin John Wilkes Booth. This event is often seen as the last notable flashpoint of sectional tension before the outbreak of the Civil War.

#### 6 NOVEMBER, 1860: ABRAHAM LINCOLN ELECTED PRESIDENT

- Republican Party candidate Abraham Lincoln becomes the 16th President of the United States. He wins the presidential election without carrying a single Southern vote.

#### 20 DECEMBER, 1860: SOUTH CAROLINA SECEDES

- South Carolina, one of the richest states in the country, is the first to secede in the immediate aftermath of Lincoln's election. The Ordinance of Secession cites Northern hostility to slavery and the election of a sectional party as reasons for the state's action.

## JANUARY - FEBRUARY, 1861: EXTENSION OF SECESSION AND THE FORMATION OF THE CONFEDERACY

- Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas all committed to secession in 1861. The states form the Confederate States of America, elect Jefferson Davis as their President and draft a constitution which mimics that of the United States except for an explicit endorsement of slavery.

## 4 MARCH, 1861: LINCOLN'S FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS

- Lincoln calls for peace with the erring seceding states, stating that 'though passions may have strained' the North and South 'must not be enemies' but friends. Appealing to 'the better angels of our nature' in an attempt to pacify growing concerns about possible conflict, he declares, 'I have no purpose directly or indirectly to interfere with the institution of slavery in the States where it exists'. He argues that the Union is perpetual and must be maintained.

## 12 APRIL, 1861: FORT SUMTER

- The first exchange of fire in the Civil War takes place off the coast of South Carolina at Fort Sumter, a garrison that had been occupied by Kentuckian Unionists. Lincoln, under public pressure, sends provisions to the previously unmanned garrison and notifies the Secessionists of his intentions. Jefferson Davis takes the decision to fire on the unarmed boat which leads to the surrender and evacuation of the Federal troops.

## 15 APRIL, 1861: LINCOLN SUMMONS TROOPS

- Lincoln calls on the Northern states to supply a 75,000 strong militia that would serve for three months, enough time, he believes, to restore the Union. Lincoln justifies this resort to force by stating that the issue had become 'too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings.' That day, minor skirmishes occurred in western Virginia.

## 17 APRIL - 21 MAY, 1861: BORDER STATES SECEDE

- Hostilities at Fort Sumter force Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina to side with the Confederacy. As the Confederacy expands, Jefferson Davis struggles to maintain social unity; its members seceding in order to assert their individual rights. For the rest of the conflict, Lincoln fights to hold onto the remaining Border States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri.

## 21 JULY, 1861: FIRST BATTLE OF BULL RUN

- The first major battle of the Civil War occurs when public and political demands push an unprepared Union army into battle in Virginia. The arrival of Confederate reinforcements ensures a Confederate victory and a rapid retreat to Washington, D.C. for the Union army.

#### 8 NOVEMBER, 1861: THE TRENT AFFAIR

- British public opinion is divided over the Civil War, but economic ties with America are strong and the British are keen to regain an influence in the New World. Two Confederate commissioners, on their way to persuade the British to support the Southern cause, are halted by a Union naval commander. Britain reacts strongly, threatening a war that neither Britain nor the Union wants, but is eventually appeased by Union efforts.

#### 24 DECEMBER, 1861: START OF COMMITTEE SESSION

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